Committee to Oversee MPLADS

1228. SMT. BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT R. JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the MPs face several difficulties in the proper implementation of the MPLADS schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government will consider appointing a standing committee on the lines of the Employment Guarantee Scheme Committee of Maharashtra Legislature, to oversee the MPLADS scheme;

(c) whether the Government would also consider to bring out a compendium of instructions and guidelines and Rules and Regulations for the MPLADS based on the experience gathered during the last 3 years; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that the scheme is made more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Some Members of Parliament have complained to the Government about the difficulties being experienced by them in the proper implementation of the Scheme.

(b) There is no proposal presently under the consideration of the Government for establishing any Committee of both Houses of Parliament to oversee the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) on the lines of Employment Guarantee Scheme Committee of the Maharashtra Legislature.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) General instructions have already been issued to the Collectors to expedite the implementation of the scheme. However, whenever delay in any specific cases is brought to the notice of the Department of Programme Implementation, Government of India, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned Collector/State Government for necessary action. Further clarifications on some of the specific issues on which doubts had been raised have been recently issued to the Collectors with a view to expedite the pace of implementation.

Interest on Money Lying in Banks for MPLADS

1229. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR.SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state: (a) what is the reason for not issuing orders that the interest accrued to the money lying in the banks in the accounts of the Collectors under MPLADS be credited to the MPLADS funds in spite of the assurance given by the Minister in Rajya Sabha;

(b) by when such orders would be issued; and

(c) the amount of interest accrued in the country as on 1st July, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) According to the available records no such assurance was given by the then Minister about interest being credited to MPLADS funds. The decision about the manner in which the interest amount accrued on MPLADS funds is to be utilised, is yet to be taken.

(c) As per the information received in respect of majority of Members of Parliament, an amount of Rs. 2424.47 lakhs has accrued as interest on the funds as on 31st March, 1996.

Allotment of vacated Quarters in Delhi

1230. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that unduly long time is taken to allot quarters vacated by the outgoing allottees in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details of those quarters as on the 30th June, 1996, which have remained unallotted for over 30 days after being vacated by the outgoing allottees;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay; and

(d) what steps would be taken to ensure that a quarter is allotted to the eligible employee within 30 days from the date of its vacation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above. However, sometimes quarters which are allotted are not accepted leading to an impression as if the quarters are lying vacant.

Configuration given for the Computers

1231. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the configuration given for the computers under the Electronics Projects under MPLADS is only suggestive and not mandatory;

(b) whether MPs can suggest higher configuration like Pentiums, instead of 386 computers;

(c) whether the MPs can also suggest more number of computers but within the limit of Rs. 10 lakhs;

(d) whether the Collectors should take decision at their levels about the increased cost due to increased configurations or should they refer the matter for decision to the GOI; and

(e) what steps are being taken to make this procedure easy and simple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, subject to overall ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per project.

(c) A Member of Parliament can suggest more computers but within the limit of Rs. 10 lakhs depending upon the number of students that are willing to be enrolled for computer education under the scheme and other relevant factors.

(d) The Collectors are competent to take decisions in this regard subject to the ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per project.

(e) The guidelines on the Electronic Projects are being revised.

Popularising the Use of Bio Gas

1232. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) what steps are being taken by Government to popularise the use of Biogas;

(b) the number of bio-gas plants set up in Orissa and other States, as on date;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to assist the small and the marginal farmers to set up bio-gas plants in their respective villages; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Steps taken to popularise the use of biogas include allocation of a target of setting up of 1.80 lakh family type and 250 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants to different States and Union Territories for 1996-97, with the provision to provide Central subsidy, turn-key job free, technical and training support and publicity and awareness.

(b) Over 23.68 lakh family type and 1600 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants have been set up so far in different States and Union Territories, including 1.20 lakh family type and 32 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants in the State of Orissa.

(c) and (d) Small and marginal farmers, who have requisite minimum number of cattle heads, are already being encouraged to set up family type biogas plants by providing them higher amounts of Central subsidy. Besides, village based large size biogas plants which benefit small and marginal farmers also, are being promoted wherever the community agrees to meet the balance installation cost, over and above the subsidy, as well as operation and maintenance costs.

Housing Board for Agricultural Workers

1233. DR.D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: